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Million-dollar surplus for AH

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a large surplus for the Township of Algonquin Highlands, one of more than \$1 million.

Councillors received a report on the 2020 surplus, which totals \$1,007,000, during their 2021 budget deliberations on Feb. 22.

“The COVID pandemic had a significant effect on the regular operations and completion of projects approved in the 2020 budget, and it also affected manpower, training and conferences and various expenditures overall,” read a report from treasurer Jean Hughes.

In the administration department, for example, there are basement renovations at the township office and other projects that were not completed last year for a surplus of more than \$60,000. For fire services, there was a surplus of more than \$135,000, due largely to cancellation of training and conferences in light of the pandemic, as well as a new furnace and other equipment not being purchased. The building department saw a surplus of more than \$80,000, due in part to reduced wages and benefits as a result of see COUNCIL page 3



Back on the ice

Highland Storm hockey returned for session two of the minor hockey association’s 202/21 season with a practice on Friday, Feb. 19 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. See story on page 11. /DARREN LUM Staff

Fifth round for MH budget discussions

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Minden Hills councillors will enter a rare fifth round of budget deliberations, that discussion scheduled to take place during council’s regular meeting on Feb. 25.

Council held its fourth round of discussions on the township’s 2021 budget during a special meeting on Feb. 16.

Councillors continue to discuss what staffing positions will be required in 2021, particularly at the township’s new arena and recre-

ational complex, which is hoped will open this spring and for ice-related activities this fall. Money for an economic development officer was removed from the draft budget, the township’s previous economic development officer resigning last fall, and with the upper tier of the County of Haliburton creating an economic development position with its 2021 budget.

Staff was also instructed to bring back scenarios, both including and excluding the reconstruction of Bobcaygeon Road, which had been included in the fourth round of the draft budget. The draft budget also includes mil-

lions of dollars in borrowing to complete capital projects, and both councillors Bob Carter and Pam Sayne have expressed concern about relying too heavily on large debentures.

During the third round of budget discussions, Carter said he’d also like to see consideration for waiving outstanding penalties and interest on outstanding, water and sewer bills, etc., amid the COVID-19 pandemic, but that idea was ultimately not approved by council.

The fourth draft of the budget represented a 3.46 per cent increase over the 2020 tax levy.

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Lochlin school photos prompt reflection during pandemic's pause

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Linda Robertson laughed when asked why she began posting historical photos of Lochlin and Ingoldsby on her personal Facebook page.

"I guess because I haven't anything to do," she said with a chuckle.

When the first lockdown began last year after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared and residents of Ontario tried to flatten the curve to slow the spread of virus by staying home, Linda began actively connecting to her community in the same way she always has – through music – but in a different way than she usually does – online. Self-made videos of Linda on guitar and her sister Doris on a keyboard singing everything from gospel tunes to old country songs are perhaps a far cry from a jam-packed jamboree, but friends have responded positively, appreciating the chance to sing along and listen to local talent while disrupting busy routines to stay home.

Then in January, during the second provincial stay-at-home orders, Linda was looking through and organizing old photos for a memorial slideshow for a friend up north, when she found an old souvenir pamphlet from Ingoldsby showing what Linda refers to as "Uncle Joe's store" and old area lodges, long gone.

"It's kind of neat to put them on and give someone something to look at," said Linda. "A lot of people are on Facebook, I think, looking for stuff to do, and we've had a lot of following on our videos, so I thought, that'd be kind of neat for something different, to put up some old photos and create some interest – and it has."

The responses to the photos that Linda posted on her personal page have included memories and inquiries and friendly disputes about interpretations of events from friends who remember the buildings, or had heard stories of their history from family who lived when they were built.

When Linda came across photos from her own childhood, especially pictures taken at Lochlin school, she posted those online, too.

"I ran across the old Lochlin school pictures and I thought, I'm going to post them on there too, because there are people I know having lived here, born and raised in Lochlin – went to that school for eight years, we all had the same teacher," she said. "And everyone else is finding it interesting as well."

Dozens of comments were posted to the photos, which show groups of kids standing in front of the old Lochlin school, a building still standing as a community centre at 4713 Gelert Road. Those kids themselves – now in their 70s and 80s – commented, recalling their own memories of school, as did others



A Lochlin school group photo, taken around 1957. Back row: Enid Hague, Barbara Shaw, Freida Dugan, Eunice Arnold, Connie Dugan, Ed Burk, Lois Exxon, Gloria Dugan, Mrs. Celia Brown. Second row: Chris Hill, Rilla Congdon, Bruce Burk, Frank Newson, Rhonda Gilbert, John Passmore, Linda Robertson, Les Burk, Eunice Hague, Becky Davidson. Third Row: Doris Burk, Bill Dugan, Jim Mitchell, Dan Davidson, Nancy Exxon, Helen Burk, Brynell Gilbert, Bryce Gilbert. Front row: Micheal Mitchell, Paul Mitchell, Earl Burk, Pat Passmore, Dale Emmerson. /Submitted photo



Lochlin school students return from a Kiwanis music festival in the 1940s. Back row: Carol Crofts, Muriel Hicks, Barbara Burk, Ruby Robertson, Donna Robertson. Front row: Marjory Hague, Patsy Minaker, Elva Hicks, Neil Burk, Doris Robertson, Bill Eads. /Submitted photo

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from Ingoldsby to Lochlin. She said she once heard a story from Gerald Hicks about when the family that first lived in what would become her family's farmhouse – the Yerex family – realized they were not alone in settling in the area when they happened upon the Vangesen family.

"They thought – each one of those families – thought they were the only people in the region at the time," says Linda. "[The Yerex patriarch] got up one morning, on our farm, and he heard a rooster crowing, and it wasn't his. So he followed where he thought he heard it, he walked the hog's back, the esker, until he came to the Vangesen farm, and found another family there, and that's when he realized he had neighbours."

Linda said the conversation with her cousin was fascinating because of her genealogy work.

"She sent me pictures of my family and stuff like that," she said. "It's been quite the experience, actually, I didn't realize when I [posted the photos], I just did it for something to do ... It's created quite the interest out there, not just for our family, but everybody."

Pat Trerice, known then as Patsy Minaker, is 80 now, but she could easily name every student in one of the photos Linda had posted, even recalling it vividly in her memory while discussing it later.

"I was the one, in the front row, there's a little girl on the end, and then I'm the next one, with the big smile on my face," she told the *Times* of the photo, which showed a group that had returned from a Kiwanis music festival in Toronto with a prize ("We must have won first prize," said Pat. "Because we have the trophy.") Only two of the children in the front row of that picture are still alive today, which Pat knows because the group has kept in close touch over decades.

"We're all still friends," she said. "All the friends I went to public school with, they're all my friends still."

For many kids who grew up in the Lochlin community at that time, the memories are similar, of laundry tub baths with woodstove-heated water, food ration stamps or the after-effects of the war, church gatherings or outings to the bustling Lochlin General Store, line-ups for mandatory vaccinations from the travelling nurse, and of school – together – in the one-room schoolhouse with their teacher, Mrs. Celia Brown.

Pat remembers clearly the first day of school, around 1945 or 1946 for her, in the original Lochlin school, which burned down soon after that.

"When we first started, the first day of school, I was so excited to be with all of these kids and I mean, I kept turning around talking to everybody, I was a little chatterbox," she said. "Mrs. Brown, she took me to the

see MEMORIES page 9



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AH pens letter of support for arts centre fundraising

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is supporting a grant application by the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation for money for a feasibility study for a would-be state-of-the-art performing arts centre in the county.

Councillors heard from Dan Manley, president of the foundation, which was founded in 2018 and granted charitable status in 2019. Its goal is the construction of a modern arts centre in the Haliburton Highlands that would include an acoustically engineered performance space large enough to house an orchestra, a secondary theatre for smaller events, acoustically isolated rehearsal spaces, a centralized box office for performing arts events, and a lobby where alcoholic beverages could be served.

Currently larger arts performances take place at the

Northern Arts Performing Arts Pavilion at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, where the sale of liquor is not permitted.

"That's been a tipping point," Manley said. "Especially at the high school, you can't have a drink, it's just not permitted on school property. So it would be nice to have a full, night-out experience, where you would be able to enjoy a glass of wine or a beer between acts."

"A reunified box office," Manley said, "so that we can all take advantage of one website, one ticketing system, so we have all these shows that are centralized that way. We don't have to worry about calling a number of different organizations to figure out who's got tickets and how they're sold."

As Manley noted, the stage at the pavilion is too small to house an orchestra-sized group of performers, or to really allow dancers to fully strut their stuff.

The proposed main performance hall at a new facility would seat 350 to 500 people, and a second "black box" theatre 150. It's proposed the facility would be used for performances and

rehearsals by local arts groups, house office space for those groups, and have a workshop where sets could be built on-site. Currently, sets for shows that are part of the Highlands Summer Festival, for example, are constructed in the industrial park in Haliburton, then deconstructed and carted to the high school, where they are then reassembled. Manley also noted that a large theatre would allow the opportunity to bring larger acts to the community.

Council unanimously agreed to the letter of support.

"I remember the tremendous effort and fundraising from the community that went into the creation of the Northern Arts Performing Arts Pavilion, and you're absolutely right, I've attended many events there, and there are some challenges," said Mayor Carol Moffatt. "What's really exciting is that we've seen enough growth in the community over that many number of years, that we now have the calibre and number of performances to offer this opportunity, so thank you for picking that up, and continuing to move it forward."

It's estimated a feasibility study will cost \$75,000.

Council to pass budget with 3.89 per cent tax rate increase

from page 1

medical leaves, as well as training and conference cancellations. Under environmental services, there was a surplus of more than \$140,000, part of that stemming from the fact that during the initial stages of the pandemic, construction and demolition waste was not accepted at the township's waste disposal sites, which meant the township didn't have to pay for transportation of those materials.

The story was similar in each of the township's departments, and surpluses were placed into departmental reserves for completion of future capital projects.

"The remaining surplus will be transferred to the working funds upon completion of the audit and represents mainly wages and benefits along with other regular operational costs within various departments that fall below the budgeted amounts due to closures, cancellations and staff vacancies," Hughes' report read.

Algonquin Highlands councillors held two days of 2021 draft budget discussions on Feb. 22 and 23, landing on a levy increase of 4.98 per cent levy increase over last year, which will equate to a 3.89 per cent tax rate increase at the lower-tier level for residents. This equates to a \$12.50 increase for

every \$100,000 of assessment.

There was discussion about the budgetary pressures that would face the township in coming years, especially when it comes to its series of aging docks and landings.

"The other thing I think we need to keep in mind too, is that if we agree on the direction the community is taking through our decision-making ... then we have to be prepared to fund it," said Mayor Carol Moffatt. "Anything greater than a zero per cent increase makes people angry, it's always been that way. So we need to make sure that we're confident we're making the decisions we need to make for the community as opposed to how people will feel about it."

New spending items include a one-year contract for a communications co-ordinator; seasonal operators in the public works and maintenance departments; an additional staffing position in the parks, rec and trails department; improvements to Elvin Johnson Park; and green space improvement and entrance maintenance at the Oxtongue Lake Community Centre. There will also be additional reserve contributions toward the Dorset tower and the township's docks and landings.

The budget is scheduled to be passed during a March 18 meeting.

“

... we need to make sure that we're confident we're making the decisions we need to make for the community, as opposed to how people feel about it."

— ALGONQUIN HIGHLANDS MAYOR CAROL MOFFATT

”



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Are you a student looking for a great summer job? The Township of Minden Hills is currently accepting resumes for Summer Students for our Community Services Department in Parks and at our Minden Hills Cultural Centre as Heritage Interpreters.

Both positions are for a 16 week period from May to August with the rate of pay being \$14.25/hour, pending 2021 budget and grant funding approval.

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/employment-opportunities/ for posting details, job requirements and submission instructions, or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca



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NOTICE – 2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS

The Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will commence the 5th Round of its 2021 Budget deliberations during its Regular Meeting of Council via web conference scheduled for February 25, 2021.

Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk,
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LANDFILL ACCESS PASSES

Landfill Access Passes for Minden Hills residents will be distributed in the Spring Interim Tax Bill. Please ensure you open your bill and save your Landfill Access Pass. If you have already received your tax bill, please watch for a second mailing containing your access cards.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP

Take the "pantry challenge"! Find creative recipes on the internet to use up staples in the cupboard before you go shopping.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

On a cold winter day, the last thing you want is for your furnace to stop working. Unfortunately, furnaces can malfunction when they're needed most, simply because the vent is blocked with snow, ice, or frost. There is a good reason why many furnaces shut off when their vents are blocked – it's a built-in safety mechanism. Without proper ventilation, carbon monoxide can build up inside the house, the consequences of which can, at worst, be fatal. As a result, many furnace manufacturers design their units so that they shut off automatically when the vent becomes blocked.

Check on your furnace vent during and after heavy snowfalls, and clear snow away from the vent's opening if it builds up. If you do notice a mound of snow blocking your furnace vent, clear it away by hand – don't use a shovel or a snow blower, as either could cause damage to the furnace vent pipe.

RFR# RDS 21-02 AGGREGATE AND MATERIAL RATES

The Township is seeking bids for aggregate and material rates for a four (4) year term (2021-2024). The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2021 by 12:00 noon. Visit www.mindenhills.ca/tenders for more information or to download the Request for Rates documents.

New Nick Russell album to be released next week

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Virtuosic Haliburton Highlands guitarist Nick Russell is dropping a new album March 1.

Entitled ARCHTOP, the album takes its name from the 1949 Gibson L-7 guitar Russell used throughout its recording. Archtop guitars mimic the body architecture of symphonic instruments such as violins or cellos, and as Russell explains, were pioneered by acoustic engineer Loyd Loar for the Gibson Guitar Corporation in the 1920s.

"The guitar itself came to me via a guitar student of mine," Russell told the *Times* in an email. "My student purchased the restored

instrument from Folkway Music in Waterloo. I imagine an instrument that's over 70 years old has a bit of a story. For me, the story starts when I realized my particular playing style seems to suit this type of instrument; archtop guitars have a fast attack, not many overtones, and can be extremely expressive when played the right way. Having acquired this guitar from my student a few years back, it's been my go-to acoustic guitar since."

Russell explains the L-7 was considered a "working man's guitar," a dressed-down version of the more grandiose Gibson L-5. "These types of guitars were made famous by players like Eddie Lang in the 1920s and became the Cadillac of American acoustic jazz guitars up until the advent of electricity," he wrote. "Gibson did then electrify



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Haliburton's Nick Russell will release his new album, ARCHTOP, on March 1.
/Submitted photo

the L-5, but it meant an altogether different sound."

The songs on the album are a mixture of Russell's arrangements of jazz standards, traditional music, some solo guitar pieces, and even a Hank Williams tune.

A promotional video for the album shows Russell playing his arrangement of "You Are My Sunshine," which seems to have a lilting, soothing effect to it.

"I am not sure why it's soothing – some of the chords I use are a bit strange and unnerving!" Russell wrote of the songs on the album. "That being said, I do play rubato (the musical word for playing without any time or beat) a fair amount on this record. It's a spacious sound that a lot of people are not immediately used to and is known to put people to sleep. This is why I include the weird chords – to wake people back up!"

On five of the album's 10 tracks, Russell is joined by friend Robert Lee on upright bass. "He's a fine upright bassist currently doing his Master's at Berklee College in Valencia, Spain," Russell wrote. "We've done numerous gigs together and I knew he'd be a good fit for this collection."

(More information on Lee can be found at robertleebass.com)

Russell owns and operates Haliburton Guitar Studio, which provides lessons, recording, and other music industry services. Like many business owners, his usual

course of events has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and he took the mandated closure of the in-person aspects of his business as a chance to record ARCHTOP.

"Having two young kids and running a business can be very entropic," he wrote. "I usually do not have time to devote to recording the arrangements and ideas that come up from time to time. My teaching practice in Haliburton (and internationally over Zoom) is also quite busy. I saw the forced closure of my business as an opportunity to create this album. I am very fortunate to have a very supportive partner (my wife, Stephanie) and there were numerous days over the lockdown where I would head into the studio for the day for the sole purpose of working on this music."

ARCHTOP will be available for purchase March 1 on Russell's website nicholasrussell.ca and is the preferred method of purchasing the album. The album will also be available on streaming service Bandcamp on March 1, and other streaming services as of April 1. Russell is also producing physical CDs which will be available in April. Internationally, those CDs will be available for purchase through Bandcamp, while county residents can simply email Russell at haliburtonguitarstudio.ca and arrange to pick up a copy at the studio, located in Haliburton Village.

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Students displaying symptoms told to self-isolate for 10 days

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Ontario government has introduced changes to the COVID-19 school screening protocol, now calling on students who display even a single symptom to stay home for at least 10 days, or until they have received a negative COVID-19 test result or been cleared by a health care professional.

Since schools returned to in-person learning last month, students have been required to be screened for symptoms prior to entering the classroom.

Those symptoms include: fever and/or chills; cough or barking cough; shortness of breath; decrease or loss of taste or smell; sore throat; difficulty swallowing; runny or stuffy/congested nose; pink eye; headache; digestive issues like nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach pain; muscle aches; extreme tiredness; and falling down often.

Previously, there was no set timeframe on how long students were expected to stay home if they displayed symptoms. Instead, parents were informed to continue screening children until such a time as their symptoms cleared up, or they received a negative COVID-19 test result.

All Trillium Lakelands District School Board students and staff are required to screen for COVID-19 symptoms every morning before coming to school using the Ministry of Health's Ontario COVID-19 self-

assessment tool.

Other safety measures implemented by the province include: all students from kindergarten to Grade 12 being required to wear a mask while at school and on the school bus; elementary students wearing masks outside during recess and breaks; secondary students outside on school property or leaving the property for breaks must wear a mask, and are not to congregate in groups larger than five and outside of their cohort.

Also last week, the Ministry of Education announced plans to expand targeted COVID-19 testing for staff and students in all school boards across the province.

"In addition to daily screening, masking and the other health and safety measures, targeted testing in schools is an important layer of protection that helps to limit the spread of COVID-19. Targeted testing will help ensure that our schools remain a safe environment for all to learn and work in," a recent press release states.

Targeted COVID-19 testing is voluntary for asymptomatic students and staff. Consent will be required from parents and guardians of students under the age of 18.

All local COVID-19 information and updates can be found at tldsb.ca/covid19.



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AH office reopens to public

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Coming out of provincial lockdown, the Township of Algonquin Highlands is reopening its administrative office on North Shore Road to the public, although meetings will be strictly by appointment for the time being.

The office is reopened as of Feb. 18, with a release from the township stipulating that drop-in appointments will not be accommodated.

Telephone meetings with staff are still preferred, however, if an in-person visit is absolutely necessary, the release indicates that appointments will be booked in 30-minute blocks; that face masks must be worn and brought by visitors; that visitors will be screened prior to their entry to building; and that names and contact information must be

provided for contact-tracing purposes.

At the Dorset Recreation Centre, computers reopened for public use on Feb. 22 beginning at 9 a.m., with booked appointments required. Library book drop services resumed, but the rest of the recreation centre remains closed.

The Dorset tower remains closed, however, a re-opening of the tower property is anticipated to occur on May 17. This will include access to the property, gift shop and lookout at Peek-A-Boo Rock, but the tower itself will remain closed to visitors due to social distancing and sanitization requirements that would be difficult to maintain.

Campsite reservations for the rest of the season will begin on March 29.

The release stipulates any of these plans could change based on direction from the provincial government. The township remains under a state of emergency amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County									
County	Current Cases Not Resolved	Current High Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Confirmed Cases (Total to date)	Confirmed Cases Resolved (Total to Date)	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Confirmed Deaths (Total to date)	Probable Deaths (Total to date)	
Haliburton	1	1	0	51	50	2	0	0	
Kawartha Lakes	15	77	1	528	471	27	42	13	
Northumberland	17	67	0	431	403	15	11	0	
Total***	33	153	1	1,010	924	44	53	13	

Haliburton County's current unresolved COVID-19 cases remain at 1, with one current high risk contact, as of Feb. 23. On the weekend, COVID-19 cases in the region surpassed 1,000 since the beginning of the pandemic. On Tuesday, just one new case - in Northumberland County - was reported in the region. / Screenshot from HKPRDHU website

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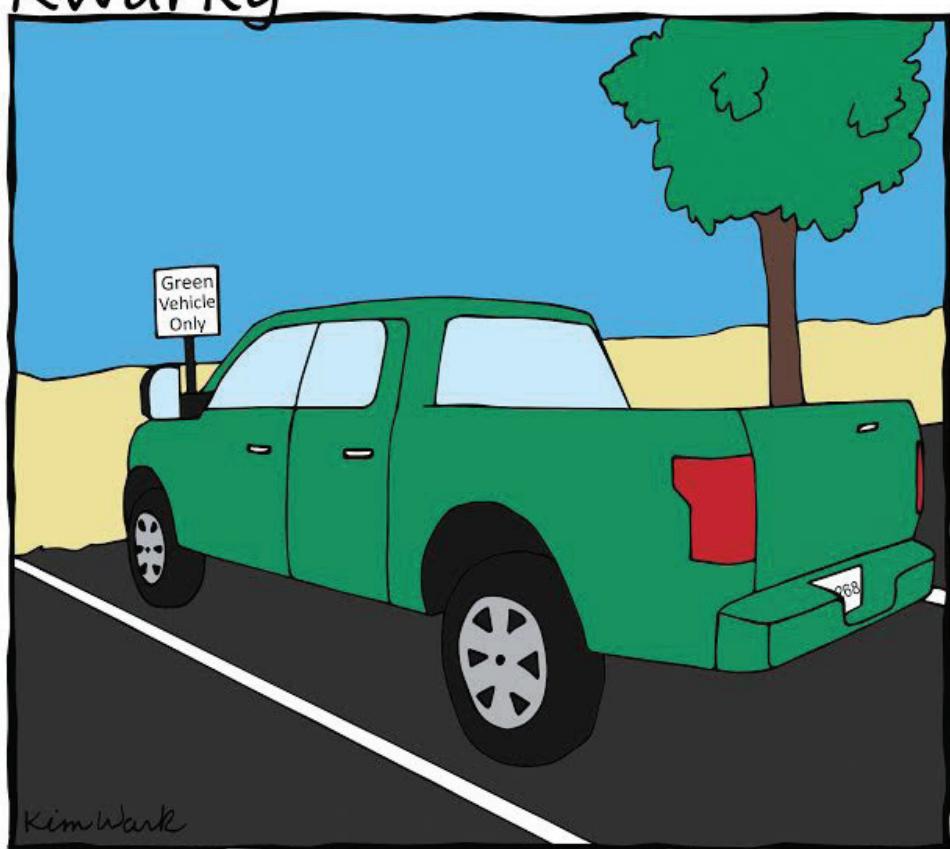
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Columns and Letters to the Editor

IN OTHER WORDS

Kwarky



A silver lining

WE ARE approaching a year since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Haliburton County, and in some respects, the pandemic is showing proverbial silver linings for the community.

An important qualifier up front here is that obviously it would be vastly, vastly superior if there were no pandemic at all. That would be much, much preferable to the current situation. Just want to make that perfectly clear.

However, we are of course living through a pandemic, one that, given the speed of vaccine rollouts in this country, doesn't seem likely to be over for Canadians any time soon.

For Haliburton County, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it some trends that also don't seem like they're going to end anytime soon. Since a state of emergency in Ontario was announced by the Ford government last March, it has been evident there are more people than usual in the county. The summer is of course always busy in the Haliburton Highlands, but that busyness didn't come to a pronounced end in 2020 the way it typically does once summer packs up its picnic.

Usually, the end of the Labour Day weekend brings a marked quiet, a very distinct, noticeable difference in the amount of traffic on the county's roads and people on its sidewalks. That was not the case last September. There was still a difference, but it was far less distinct. Usually, a second level of quiet falls over the county following Thanksgiving, when retired seasonal residents without children might head back to the GTA for the winter, or year-round residents who are snowbirds might start hopping planes for Florida or Arizona. That was also not the case last fall.

Amid the anxiety and uncertainty of the pandemic, many seasonal residents are choosing to make the cottage their home, which only makes sense. There are more people in the county for more of the year. And ultimately that's a good thing.



CHAD INGRAM
Editor

We are obviously still in the throes of the pandemic, and provincially mandated shutdowns have hurt some sectors more than others, and in some cases, businesses in the county have been forced to close. This is not the good part.

However, in the long run, more people in the community for more of the year will mean a greater demand for goods and services year-round, which will ultimately mean more money circulating through the county's still-largely-seasonal economy for more of the year. That's the good part.

The community was already beginning to change with more and more seasonal residents retiring year-round to what had been cottages. The COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating that trend. A recent survey by the Township of Minden Hills on its waste disposal services found that 26 per cent of seasonal respondents intended to turn their seasonal residences into their year-round homes,

and that while currently the majority of the township's residents are seasonal, that position could flip within five years, the majority of residents becoming year-round residents. There are similar trends in all the county's townships, told through statistics such as landfill traffic counts and monthly construction values tracked by building departments. In Algonquin Highlands, use of the township's campsites and trails have been through the roof since their reopening following the initial stages of the pandemic.

More people in the community will also mean local municipal governments will have to make considerations about the way they provide services. How long, for example, will it be before a growing year-round population demands garbage pickup?

For decades, municipal politicians in the county have grappled with how to expand its largely seasonal economy. In some capacity, the COVID-19 pandemic and its legacy are doing that.

Gravity and the canoe

THE OTHER day I told Jenn that I was seriously considering the purchase of a new and relatively expensive Kevlar canoe and, surprisingly enough, she did not object in the slightest. I believe this was due to the fact that she was wearing her headphones at the time.

But I also think she is beginning to understand that as old canoes age, gravity takes a greater hold on them. After all, she is not averse to science.

For instance, my old 17-foot, 36-inch beamed, Coleman canoe was not always the 500 pounds it is today.

No, when I first bought it some 22-years ago, it weighed a mere 87 pounds and it was easy for me to pick up, throw over my shoulders and load atop of any vehicle I owned.

In the last four or five years, however, it has gained a lot of weight, I suspect due to increased gravitational pull on the material. And while I can still throw it over my shoulders and load it atop of any vehicle we own, I generally require a long nap after doing so. But this cuts into my fishing time, which is problematic.

I'm not sure why canoes are affected so much by gravity these days, but I know I am not the only one I know who thinks this is the case. In fact, it has got so bad that, my friends and I now consider the mere act of placing a canoe atop a car to be a team sport – which is why we now prefer just to watch from the sidelines.

On the flip side, I think Jenn also honestly believes – probably because I repeat it constantly as she sleeps – that Kevlar canoes are desirable, mostly because they

are lighter to begin with and, probably because they are made of space-aged material, not nearly as affected by gravity.

By my calculations, the average 45-pound Kevlar canoe would take another 20 years before it reached the weight of the Coleman canoe I have now.

As convincing as this argument is, it is not, by itself, enough to tip the scales, especially given the weight of a Kevlar canoe's price tag. That's why I have started a concerted public relations campaign designed to convince Jenn I need a Kevlar canoe more than we need the money for lesser things such as food.

Primarily, that campaign consists of me grunting, groaning, wincing and holding my back in public on the days following the loading and unloading of my canoe. There are other equally embarrassing noises utilized to good effect as well.

I believe all of these factors are starting to soften her stance on the potential purchase, which will happen in the spring before the lakes open up.

In the end, however, it will eventually devolve into a financial decision. She will have to weigh the price of a new canoe against the price of keeping the old one. If we were in the U.S., this would be a no-brainer, medical costs being what they are. But thanks to our free public health care system, the financial benefits are not nearly as obvious.

Regardless, I think that framing this as a financial decision is a huge mistake, for how can you put a price tag on my happiness? Plus, it is a whole lot less expensive than a new car with a lower roof.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Rotisserie chicken for dinner?

IT IS COLD, snowing and the car headlights snap on as twilight descends over the final kilometers of the trip back from the Big Smoke.

Twilight means it is dinner time and we are hungry, but have little enthusiasm for thinking about cooking dinner. There are other chores: shovelling to the front door, firing up the woodstove, checking the water system to see if anything has frozen.

Dinner is not a real concern because our car is filled with the delightful aroma of freshly roasted chicken. It is coming from one of those seasoned rotisserie chickens that you buy at take-out food counters in stores like Costco, Wal-Mart and others.

When the chores are done, just pull the plump and tender roasted chicken from its plastic container, set it beside a salad, grab a slice or two of bread and voila – supper. No fuss, no mess and delicious for only \$7.99 (plus tax of course) at Costco. (In a U.S. Costco it's \$4.99 American, a price that hasn't changed in more than 10 years.)

An uncooked chicken costs \$10 to \$12 at a grocery store, so how does Costco manage to sell ready-to-eat, seasoned rotisserie chickens for \$7.99?

Jeff Lyons, a Costco senior vice president, has said the company sells 100 million of them a year. He would not confirm reports that its chickens are a loss leader – sold at cost or less to pull in customers who buy other stuff.

Mercy for Animals, an organization dedicated to ending exploitation of animals for food, says it knows how Costco does it. Its website says the chickens are super-fast grown in "crowded, filthy barns."

The organization did some undercover videoing at a new \$450 million Costco chicken facility in Nebraska which produces two million birds a week.

It said it found thousands of chickens crowded together, living for weeks in piles of their own feces.

"Chickens struggling to walk under their own unnatural weight. Bodies burned bare from ammonia-laden litter. Dead days-old chicks. Piles of rotting birds. This is Costco Chicken."

The chickens are force-fed to produce the plump breasts favoured by consumers. Their legs often can't support the unnatural weight gains and birds topple over and end up lying in the poop. The poop contains ammonia which Mercy says burns the birds left to lie in it.

Some weaker and smaller birds, particularly chicks, are trampled and crushed, and left to rot.

Costco says it has an animal welfare task force that audits its animal facilities and follows the five freedoms of animal well-being – freedom from fear, freedom from discomfort, freedom from thirst and hunger, freedom to exhibit natural behaviour and freedom from pain and suffering.

Costco and other companies do take steps to ease the suffering of animals killed for food. For instance, Costco in its Nebraska facility puts chickens to sleep with carbon dioxide before they are plunged into boiling water to loosen their feathers, thus preventing the birds from being boiled alive.

Philosophical arguments supporting killing animals for food have been around forever. Like, non-human animals don't think, don't have souls, and don't act morally. They are far below us and here solely for our benefit.

There always have been people who don't accept those arguments, but they have had little impact on the food industry. A majority of people want meat to eat and meat production provides many jobs and economic benefits.

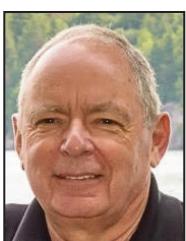
These days more people are objecting by going vegan. They have stopped eating meat, or eat only meats from animals they know have been treated humanely.

No matter what food companies say or do, animals destined for our dinner plates are not going to live in the comfortable styles we afford our pet cats and dogs. People have been demanding meat to eat for centuries and crowding animals into tight spaces for butchering has been accepted as part of the process.

It's a controversial, complicated subject and one for better brains than mine to figure out.

Will I buy and eat another Costco rotisserie chicken? I don't know. Probably.

What I definitely do know is that all living things, animals, plants or insects, are equally important parts of nature that deserve and must be treated with respect.



JIM POLING SR.

From *Shaman's Rock*

letters to the editor

Primary concern is size of setback

To the Editor,

Re: County to post FAQs for public
I read with interest your article.

Following this issue since it lately came to my attention, it strikes me that the property owners might need to create a website and post a FAQ as council seems to suffer from a misunderstanding. Perhaps there has been miscommunication. If only council understood the issues better then maybe they would change their minds.

The primary concern of most property owners is that there is no need for a 30-metre setback. Property owners of lake front property do not want to cede control over their property to municipalities.

If the council were to produce a FAQ, I would like it to contain science and information about what lakes are at risk in our county. Where are the algae blooms?

The Gull Lake Cottagers' Association has been conducting periodic lake health studies for years. The property owners on Gull Lake are very concerned about lake health. I have been coming here since 1992 and the lake health has shown no deterioration. We are a downstream lake. Maybe there are lakes in other catchment basins that have different issues. For Gull Lake, my conclusion is that a bylaw eliminating my right and control over most of my property (the first 100 feet back from shore) is unnecessary and a very large over-reach. (I am also not sure it is legal but that is another issue.)

Better engagement of property owners affected and some listening on the part of council might help.

Charles Flaherty
Gull Lake

Find calm

I AM NOT a fan of getting stuck in traffic. Specifically, the bumper-to-bumper type that has you inching forward at a rate slower than any sloth I've seen on a YouTube video. One time when I was caught in that type of traffic when this car pulled in front of me. Foolish person thought that the lane I was in was moving faster than the one that they came from. When I stopped swearing under my breath, I realized I was experiencing one of those "blessing in disguise" kind of moments. Their licence plate read: Be Calm (but a different spelling). I hope you'll believe me when I say I was actually calmer for the rest of the hour-longer-than-it-needed-to-be trip home. Every time I'd squirm in the seat or try to look for an escape from the long line-up of red lights ahead of me I'd come back to that licence plate. I'd see "be calm" and my mind would go through a series of thoughts like:

- I can't do anything about the decision I made to leave when I did;
- I can't make these other cars go any faster;
- I can put on some fun music; and,
- I can think about how fortunate I am to have a car to drive, and a full tank of gas at this very moment

COVID-19 is our worldwide traffic jam. There is no way of avoiding what is happening or worrying about how long it will last and the subsequent ramifications to life as we once knew it. It should not be ignored. However, giving it more attention than it deserves is messing with our mental and physical health. I do look at social media (more times a day than I care to admit) and I'm noticing a bit of a shift to discussions around the "what ifs" in this situation. People are expressing their concerns. They have every right to, but we have the right not to read or listen to their posts. If we focus on the problem all that we will see is



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

the problem. If we step back, we get more perspective.

Finding calm moments in this storm isn't that hard. Sometimes it does take some creativity. Easy choices are limiting time on social media, watching the news or having discussions that are COVID-19 focused. One of my clients was told by her husband that he would only listen to her coronavirus concerns for 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening. I love this idea.

The other way to find calm is to put yourself in situations that ground you. Meditation is an obvious one but it's not great if you have a brain that works a mile-a-minute. If this is you, this really is not the time to give meditating a try. There are other things that can work like:

- Put on your favourite music and sing or dance or dance and sing.

- Get outside and take a deep breath of fresh air. If there is a tree nearby, put your hand on it and pay attention to what you're feeling. If you want to go all out, hug the tree. I swear there is nothing more grounding

- If you're wearing socks or shoes right now kick them off. Wiggle your toes. Walk on surfaces you don't normally walk on and feel every sensation you can. Or, put some water in the bathtub and stand in it. Make it really cold if you need a jolt of reality

- Light a candle and stare at the flame. Watch it dance and flicker. Let yourself get lost in its energy

All of these ideas put us right in the "now." There is no other moment than right now. It's all that we have and it's a calm place to be.

Something to think about.

Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

SIRCH offering pathway to jobs through free four-month programs

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

SIRCH Community Services is preparing to relaunch a pair of popular programs designed to help area residents learn new skills and potentially enter the workforce.

The 'Cook It Up' and 'Ready For Retail' initiatives have trained dozens of individuals in recent years. Introduced back in 2015, the programs are offered by SIRCH completely free of charge in partnership with Fleming College.

"These programs will help you gain the skills and confidence you need to find success," said Gena Robertson, SIRCH executive director. "Our goal is to get you employed, or self-employed."

The programs run over a period of four months, and are being offered both online and in-person, at the SIRCH Training Centre at 49 Maple Avenue in Haliburton.

'Cook It Up' teaches individuals how to work in a professional kitchen. Working alongside professional chefs, participants will learn skills such as knife handling, nutrition, cooking and serving. Trainees will be provided with the opportunity to showcase their talents at the SIRCH Community Kitchen and Bistro, which reopened to the public last week.

The 'Ready for Retail' program trains people how to work effectively in retail spaces. Individuals will be taught "invaluable" skills,

such as how to work in a team, how to work with difficult people, what to do about stress, and how to focus on the positives during tough situations. Those enrolled in the program will also learn about cashier duties, merchandizing, and loss prevention. Practical experience will be gained by working in the SIRCH Marketplace, a vibrant store attached to the Bistro that is filled with unique items from dozens of county-based artists and entrepreneurs.

Robertson noted that 90 per cent of the programs' graduates have been offered jobs upon graduation.

She pointed out that one of the major plus points, as reported by those who have gone through the programs, is the flexibility of the instructors and willingness to create a successful plan for those with busy and hectic schedules.

"We can help you solve any practical issues that may stand in your way, like if you don't have transportation, or need to be home when the kids get off the bus," Robertson said. "And you'll [also] get a hot lunch any day you're on site."

She added, "Our instructors will make you feel confident in no time."

The programs are due to begin soon. Those interested are encouraged to contact SIRCH at info@sirch.on.ca, or call 705-457-1742. For more information, visit www.sirch.on.ca.

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HCPL's Nonfic pick - February

'Time is money. Stop being lazy. Do something.'

Everyday we're told to take action and be productive: if you work hard, you'll make it. But your body is desperate for you to stop, your frantic mind craves a timeout, and your friends and family are finding you more moody and stressed out than ever. It's time for some Dutch wisdom.

Niksen literally means "to do nothing", but it's not the same thing as boredom or laziness. Niksen also isn't phone scrolling, or binge watching. It's simply timing out. An escape from the daily grind of work, family demands and social pressure, to destress and just... stop. In this book, Dutch mindfulness expert Annette Lavrijsen shows you how you can grow comfortable with nothing. Stop worrying about what you have to do next, or over analyzing every thought. Instead, take a moment to yourself. Recuperate. And reap Niksen's countless rewards.



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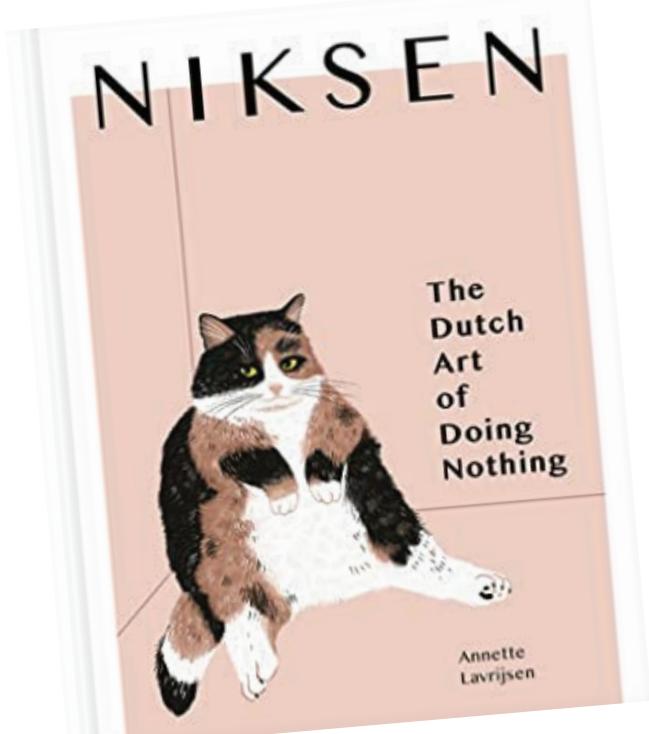
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Memories of one-room schoolhouse unite former students

from page 2

back of the room. I guess she warned me a couple of times and I still kept talking – but I wasn't the only one – and I ended up in the corner, back by the pump, with my nose in the corner. I cried my eyes out, I was so upset that I was back there. Different ones had to come back and do that, we were all so excited, we little ones. It taught me a lesson – you don't talk out in school, you learn to put your hand up."

Mrs. Brown was the only teacher both Pat and Linda had in elementary school, from Grade 1 to Grade 8.

Linda as well as her three older sisters Doris, Donna and Ruby, and one younger sister Judy attended Lochlin school, though there is an age gap of about 18 years between the oldest and the youngest sister.

"We all, all of us, our whole family, went to the Lochlin school, and we all had the same teacher," said Linda. "It's interesting that Celia Brown, she taught all the children in Lochlin. Like all the original people that lived in Lochlin were taught by her." (Helen Alkerton taught at the school prior to Brown).

Pat remembers Mrs. Brown taking her class on nature walks up the road, teaching about various plants growing on the side of the road or in fields.

"We also would have our sketch books with us and would sit down on the side of the ditch or field and draw what we were looking at," she said.

Linda, who went to the school from 1955 to 1963, remembers studying penmanship and arithmetic, having spelling bees and the unique way in which Mrs. Brown had to

teach eight grades at once – putting students in groups according to grade, teaching a short lesson to the Grade 1s and giving them an assignment to work on while she moved on to the next grade and so on.

"Mrs. Brown was an amazing person to be able to pull that off," said Linda.

Pat said there were a few times when the boys got into fist fights, and Mrs. Brown would contact their parents to let them know she would be giving them the strap on their hand. Linda doesn't remember the strap being used, but did note that the teacher "had to be in control, with that many kids."

"One thing that she used to do, if the boys or somebody got in trouble outside, they got fighting or doing whatever it was they shouldn't have been doing, she'd sneak outside, ring the bell, and everybody paid the price," said Linda. "Everybody had to come in, you had to go back and work – get back to school."

While Pat remembers playing "war" at recess time, a game in which the boys would be soldiers and the girls would be nurses, using branches to pretend to give them needles as they cared for their "wounds," and a game of chase called "Fox and Goose," Linda remembers hopscotch, tag, and throwing a ball over the school.

"If it was nasty outside, too cold to go out, then we had checkers that we played inside, or we'd do art – draw things, that kind of stuff," said Linda. "But it had to be darn cold before you got out of going outside for recess."

Both women very fondly remember a travelling library, in which a suitcase of books would be brought in to the school once a

month or once every two months, taking books home to read before returning them to check out another one.

"In the afternoon, if everyone got their work done during the day, Mrs. Brown would read to us," said Pat.

One year, Pat came in third in a public speaking contest and received the book, *The Bells on Finland Street*, written by Lyn Cook. Mrs. Brown read a chapter of it to the class once or twice a week – the students focusing to get their work done to hear another chapter – and then had them write to Cook, who wrote back to the students. Pat introduced the author to her own daughter years later at a library event in Scarborough.

"I went over to meet her and I took the letter with me, to show her that I was the little girl that won the book," she said.

"I always liked reading and of course Mrs. Brown always promoted that a lot, too," said Linda. "She would take a book out of that [library], and before we started class, she would read out loud to us for half an hour."

Linda would take books out, and – with no hydro in the house – read to her family by lamp light.

"You all had to go to bed at 9 o'clock, there was no staying up, but before we went to bed, after suppertime and before bed, we'd all gather around, and either Dad would play his mouth organ, or we'd sing, or I would read a chapter or two out of the book," she said. "Mom and Dad enjoyed it as much as the rest of us did." (Linda said they also had a radio at home for entertainment, an old battery radio, but the only time they were allowed to put it on was to hear the news, and the Grand Ole Opry.)

Mrs. Brown was a beloved community member. Besides being the sole teacher at Lochlin school for numerous years, she was also organist and music director for Lochlin United Church for more than 35 years.

"She was always Mrs. Brown, to everyone, and her husband was Archie," said Linda. "We didn't call him Mr. Brown. It was Mrs. Brown and Archie. I don't know why that was the way it was."

Archie was a trapper, and Linda remembers there always being something that smelled delicious cooking away at the house on Mrs. Brown's days off – sometimes it was beaver.

Mrs. Brown and Archie's house was a second home to many of the kids in Lochlin, according to Pat, who remembers spending a lot of time there.

"She encouraged three or four of us to take piano lessons on her piano," she remembered. "Mr. Fred Clements would come down from Haliburton on a Saturday morning and we would have a specific time to be there and have a lesson."

The Browns had one of the first television sets in Lochlin, George and Betty Exxon having the other one, according to Pat.

"I spent Sunday nights with Archie and Mrs. Brown watching the Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey Brothers show and the Ed Sullivan show," she said. "And Mrs. Brown would make cookies and give me hot chocolate. I was just like their kid. And then I'd have to run home after it was over, across the railroad track and across the big road to my house, and they'd stand on their porch and yell 'are you there yet?' and make sure I got home OK."

see TEACHER page 10

Talk with the Doc

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Teacher Celia Brown a Lochlin legend

from page 9

Linda remembers students stopping by to show Mrs. Brown their Halloween costumes, noting that she was “the centre of the community.”

The end of the school day was used as a teaching moment.

“She would give us mathematical questions orally and we would have to figure out the answers in our heads,” said Pat. “The first one to get the answer right – after putting up their hands of course – would be let go from school. She kept this up until everyone was dismissed.”

One day, Archie found a deer in the bush while he was checking his traps, a deer which was subsequently called Bambi and which used to follow Mrs. Brown to school and back.

“We all loved that deer,” said Pat. “I was at Mrs. Brown’s house the day that Archie brought the deer home and he was so feeble. His little legs were very shaky and they put him in a big cardboard box in the kitchen.”

Bambi used to visit the Minaker house, chomping on carrots fed to it over the edge of the verandah.

“That was after I had already started high school, but everyone knew Bambi,” said Pat.

Around the mid-60s, Lochlin school was closed and Linda’s little sister, Judy, was bussed to the new Archie Stouffer Elementary School, but Mrs. Brown went there, too, teaching for a short time before retiring.

“There’s quite a few generations of children that she had taught,” said Linda.

Mrs. Brown was a lifelong friend for numerous kids as they grew up in Lochlin, visiting her with their own children even after having moved away, and even after she moved away, to Dunsford. Celia Brown died in 2008 in her 100th year. A donation from her estate helped to put in place the playground equipment at the Lochlin Community Centre in 2016.

Pat went to high school in Haliburton the first year it opened, in 1953.

“Leslie Frost was the premier of Ontario,” she said. “He came and spoke and he gave us a holiday on Nov. 6, which was my birthday.”

Linda said the routine of high school – getting on a bus, switching classes, having different teachers, being around a bigger group of less familiar students after years of socializing with only immediate neighbours – was an unpleasant experience after having one teacher in one school room for almost a decade.

“When I went to high school, I had to go from room to room to room to get around, which, for me, I hadn’t been out of Lochlin,” said Linda. “To go there, I found it difficult, hard to go from room to room. And to have a different teacher for every subject. It was a shock to me, really.”

While some students might not have liked school in their childhood, many of the kids from Lochlin school have fond memories.

“I was one of the ones who really



Linda Robertson participated in a ‘then and now’ challenge on social media by posting an old photo of herself next to a more current photo. /Submitted

“

There’s quite a few generations of children that she had taught.

— LINDA ROBERTSON

”

liked school, and I loved Mrs. Brown, I loved my teacher,” said Linda. “I looked forward to going to school, I wanted to go to school. Until I got to high school. It wasn’t nearly as much fun as it was in [elementary] school ... Anyway, I made it through.”

For many people, taking this time of pause in the world to research their family history or reconnect with old friends over times gone by has helped them feel less alone.

“[Posting the photos has] created a lot of reminiscing and a lot of reconnecting, I’d say,” said Linda. “They have more time on their hands, so a lot of people are having to stay home, and they’re bored, looking for something to do. Facebook, and social media, has been a godsend for a lot of people. When they see pictures – oh, there’s a picture of me when I was eight years old, it’s kind of cool to see yourself on there. And with the music, I’ve had so many people say, please keep doing that, it’s been like a saving grace, because there’s been no contact with the outside world.”

She said that after seeing the photos, many friends reconnected with each other online, and made a point to reach out and touch base with those who aren’t using social media.

“It does seem to create interest, and that’s what it’s all about,” said Linda. “We remember the good times there. For me, a child growing up, it was all about school and all about church. Your neighbours were like family to you. All those people in those photos there, they’re almost like siblings.”

Passion for hockey drives Highland Storm's second session

by **DARREN LUM**
Times Staff

This past Friday the A.J. LaRue arena came alive with the sound of skates on ice, carving and stopping, accompanied by the intermittent ping of a puck off the post or the rattle of a puck off the stanchions of the glass when it gets cleared around the boards, as the Highland Storm resumed its paused season with the start of session two.

With the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge District health unit region returning to the Orange-Restrict level of Ontario's COVID-19 Response Framework on Feb. 16, following the provincial wide lockdown, the Storm returned to play with close to 90 per cent of players returning from session one.

Highland Storm president Jason Morissette said it was a unanimous decision by the executive to return to play and that the motivation is and has always been a love for the game of hockey.

"I say it's the reward we get for making sure we're following health and safety. We take that as number one. And take it seriously because we as an association, we certainly do. We talk a lot about it at our meetings, but at the same time some people might forget that and they focus on, yes, we get to play hockey and, yes, that's great, but we only get to do that if we stay in the proper zone," he said. "Who knows how long that will last, but we have a better chance of it lasting longer if everybody [follows through with doing the] right things."

The president's message to the community is health and safety for everyone are central to all decisions.

"It is our top concern," he said.

Working with Ontario Hockey Federation and HKPR district health unit guidelines for returning to organized play, Morissette said two keys to resuming the season was how the region moved to the orange code and hearing from the township about how they were prepared to reopen the doors to the A.J. LaRue.

COVID-19 protocols such as entrance screening and dressing just outside the perimeter of the ice rink's boards will be

enforced like session one. A new protocol implemented for session two is only one person is permitted to accompany an under 18 player into the arena, which can effect visiting siblings interested in spectating. However, there is an exception for a player under 18, who requires assistance. Once the help to dress is completed the individual must leave and can return when the session is completed.

As a response to Dr. Ian Gemmill, HKPR district health unit acting medical officer of health, discouraging hockey from happening, Morissette said, "If we're able to provide hockey safely, and if the government was adamant about such a statement, then I guess the only thing I would say is they would have contacted the Ontario Hockey Federation and they would have basically said that sport cannot go. And then of course, community centres would be closed and shut down. So would all the private users as well, right? It's not just minor hockey happening, but there's men's leagues happening and private skates that are happening – rentals," he said. "The other thing is that there is going to be an element of risk involved. There was an element of risk in the first session as well, particular to our local area. Yes, we know we've had cases and we know we may likely have some new cases emerge, but right now the rates are quite low in Haliburton County. We're hoping they stay there and people follow the protocols and adhere to the rules that are there. The more people do that among our members and the more people do that particularly in the community, then we're hopeful it won't go into the community centre and it won't affect hockey. If it does become a problem and an issue, I'm pretty sure the likelihood of us being moved into a red zone is not that far away."

The Storm, per its website, said the season will continue for eight weeks during what was supposed to be the March break and the April break, but will end before its scheduled April 17 end date if the health district moves to the red zone.

There is still space for players to register.

Register online at registration.hockeycanada.ca/registration/?ID=5390.

Refunds are available for players not returning to session two and "credit rollovers and refunds" will be available if the session is cut short because of government restrictions. In accordance with public health policies, all Storm players and coaches must reside in the health unit's region of Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District, which pertains to all activity at the arena.

Morissette said it's worth crediting the efforts of all the volunteers, particularly with 'Thank A Volunteer Week' from Feb. 22 to 28. There wouldn't be a season without them, he added.

Morissette has appreciated the support and communication provided by Dysart Township during this season. He believes the municipality's efforts show they are aware of the benefit hockey can provide to people, offering an outlet in a safe way.

Another challenge this session and for the future of hockey in the county is the shortage of available officials for this region.

Morissette said there is a small pool of people in the area to officiate games this season, which has required coaches and volunteers with coaching certification to step in to help for four on four games, referred to as "organized scrimmages." He encourages teens and adults with a passion for hockey to join the ranks. An official, he said, can make at least \$25 a game with mileage to games being covered. He adds the Storm will cover costs related to acquiring the necessary certification so contact the association if interested (highland-storm.org).

After two recent virtual Storm meetings, one between the executive and the coaches, and one with parents, the mood among everyone is positive, Morissette said.

"Everybody seemed comfortable and confident that they can make this work like they did in the first session and give kids an opportunity to get out and skate and do something that's fun to do and have an outlet because they've been cooped up in their houses a lot, particularly during the lockdown," he said.

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Sales of 'Girl Gang' T-shirts benefit food banks

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Lifelong friends and newly formed business partners Kirsten Rae and Kelly Kay are paying it forward to the community they've always called home through the sale of T-shirts with what they call an empowering phrase, Support Your Local Girl Gang on the front.

Since they started selling the black T-shirts with white lettering made by CoHo Apparel on Feb. 21 through a Facebook post, \$1,000 in proceeds has been raised and donated to the 4Cs Food Bank and another \$470 raised of a \$1,000 goal to be donated to the Minden Community Food Bank.

Kay said it was exciting to present the \$1,000 cheque to Haliburton Food Bank treasurer Judy MacDuff recently.

"We didn't really have any expectations going into it. Oh, maybe, we'll sell a few shirts to our friends here and there and raise a couple hundred dollars, and then when we did the post it kind of blew up. And we kept having to order more shirts. We were blown away. It was definitely very exciting to be able to donate that much money," she said.

Rae said MacDuff told them the \$1,000 donation would cover almost all of the costs associated with the purchase of a month's worth of fresh vegetables for the food bank.

The Haliburton County-based realtors with close to 10 years of combined work experience in real estate have known each other all



their lives, starting their friendship at the Wee Care in Haliburton and continued to Victoria Street School, then J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary school and at the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School where they graduated in 2006.

The two mothers, both with a son and daughter, said the charitable aspect was to help as many people as they could during the pandemic. Their volunteer experiences working with children was the backbone of the charitable component to selling the T-shirts. Rae and Kay have volunteered for OFood for Kids at their children's respective primary schools in Minden and Haliburton.

"I know the need for healthy food in the community so we thought especially during the pandemic that would be a way for us to

Kirsten Rae, left, and Kelly Kay are the county's newest real estate team, Kay Rae Real Estate. They are selling Support Your Local Girl Gang T-shirts and are donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the shirts to the Minden Community Food Centre. They have already donated \$1,000 of proceeds to the 4Cs Food Bank. /Submitted by Kirsten Rae

really reach the most people in the community is to donate to the food bank," Rae said.

Before real estate, Kay's professional work history provided her an insight to how students depend on the work by the food banks and programs such as Food for Kids.

"Before I was in real estate I worked at the school board as an educational assistant so I've seen what kids bring for lunch and the kids that come to the school hungry. You don't necessarily realize until you are actually in the room with the kid," she said.

The T-shirt, Rae said, also has the added benefit of being part of the friends' marketing efforts related to raising the profile of their new business partnership in real estate, which was officially launched Kay Rae Real Estate earlier this year on Jan. 1. The Support Your Local Girl Gang statement, Rae said, references their local business partnership and their gender. She adds a lot of her own clothing has similarly branded clothing with uplifting and empowering statements for women.

"And with Kelly and I starting this venture, we just thought, 'Hey, this is great. We're one of the only female real estate teams in the area so Support Your Local Girl Gang,'" she said.

Buy the 100 per cent cotton T-shirts, which are offered in unisex sizes from XS to XXL, locally at the Beauty Basics by Amy at 136 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden or by direct

message through Facebook to Rae and Kay. There is free local drop off delivery, and free mail delivery anywhere in Ontario for the \$30 T-shirts.

Rae anticipates the \$1,000 donation they hope to raise for the Minden Community Food Centre will be met within a few weeks. She wasn't sure about who would be the next charitable recipient, but after the success she believes anything is possible.

"It's funny because we just started this 'You know what it will be so great. Such a cool idea. If we raise a few hundred dollars that would be amazing.' And it took off through social media. The skies the limit basically at this point. We would love to also donate ... there are so many local charities that could use the money, so perhaps for the next one we maybe do a poll on our social media and see what the consensus is for our next donation," she said.

So far there is just the one design and colour combination of black and white, but Rae said they'll consider other possibilities such as adding a tank top or a new colour in spring or summer.

Kay and Rae are happy and appreciative for the support they have seen in posts and in sales.

This achievement gives power to the importance of looking within your own community, whether it's a service or a product, and how it can help each other, Kay said.

"We just wanted to make people aware that you can support local and get things locally and check before you go out of town to buy something. Maybe it's available here. And from the donations from what we've done we're hoping that it makes people aware that when you do support local it goes back to the community," she said.

Rae said this effort's success is owed to the community here and across the province and the country.

"We're so appreciative of the feedback and the support we've gotten. We've shipped [the T-shirts] all over Ontario as well so the word is spreading and we're so thankful for the community support and the feedback we've received has been fantastic," she said.

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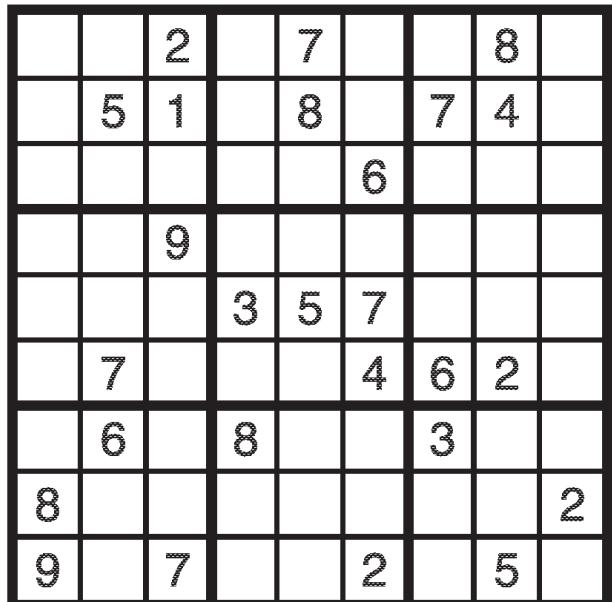
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Answers on page 16

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NOTICE 2021 SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216, the County of Haliburton enforces reduced load restrictions on trucks to protect the County roadways during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

Restriction on permits issued under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216:

As outlined in the Highway Traffic Act and County of Haliburton By-Law #2216, reduced loading may be in effect in the County of Haliburton as early as 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2021.

The actual date of reduced load limit enforcement will be in effect when and where signs are posted. All annual and project permits for moving of heavy vehicle loads, objects or structures, in excess of limits set out in the Act and the By-Law, unless otherwise specified, are not valid on any County Roads during the Reduced Loads Period.

Reduced load limits will be in effect where and when signs are posted.

WHEN SIGNS ARE POSTED, THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL HAVE A REDUCED LOAD LIMIT FOR THEIR ENTIRE LENGTH:

County Roads 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 48, 507 & 648-with the exception from CR 10 west to HWY 118.

On and after March 1st, check the County of Haliburton website www.haliburtoncounty.ca under "Notices" to see when reduced load limits are in effect and when they are lifted.

Second Talk with the Doc meeting planned for March 2

by SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Members of the public can now connect directly with the health unit's acting medical officer of health and have questions related to COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic answered in 'Talk with the Doc' virtual sessions, the first of which was held Feb. 16 with more than 150 people registered to attend, and the next which is scheduled to happen March 2.

"Our very strong feeling is that the more information we can get out, the better off we all are," said Dr. Ian Gemmill during the first Talk with the Doc session. Gemmill is acting as interim medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit for the next few weeks, when Dr. Natalie Bocking takes on the MOH position, replacing Dr. Lynn Noseworthy after her retirement.

At that meeting, participants asked questions about when they might be able to sign up for vaccinations, inquiries about the variants of concern and clarification about local public health guidelines, including travelling and snowmobiling.

Gemmill reiterated the message he has been sharing in weekly press conferences and that has regularly been reported in the *Times*, to follow public health guidelines that include wearing a mask and staying physically distanced from others, and said he was "pleading" with the public to - despite the lifting of stay-at-home orders - continue avoiding gatherings, travelling and non-essential outings including birthday parties and hockey games until more of the population is vaccinated, citing concern about the highly transmissible COVID-19 variants of concern.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit has now reported more than 1,000 cases of COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic last year, and within that number, more than 50 deaths, primarily because of outbreaks.

The first Talk with the Doc meeting held Feb. 16 is available for viewing in full at the HKPRDHU YouTube channel, or on the *Minden Times* digital version of this story at mindentimes.ca.

A second 'Talk with the Doc' virtual meeting will be held March 2 from 1 to 2 p.m., and later uploaded to the health unit's YouTube channel. To register for that session, visit hkpr.on.ca. Space is limited and available on a first come, first serve basis.

REVIEW

Review of Draft Forest Management Plan Bancroft-Minden Forest 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC) and the Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the 2021-2031 Draft Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Bancroft-Minden Forest.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The third opportunity (Stage Three) for this FMP occurred from January 4, 2021 to February 2, 2021, when the public was invited to review and comment on proposed operations for the ten-year period of the FMP. This 'Stage Four' notice is to invite you to:

- review and comment on the draft FMP; and
- contribute to the background information.

Comments from the public will be considered in revisions to the draft FMP.

How to Get Involved

The Draft FMP and the Draft FMP summary will be available electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> and can be made available by contacting the Bancroft Minden Forest Company, contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 60 days from **March 19, 2021 to May 17, 2021**. Comments on the draft FMP for the Bancroft-Minden Forest must be received by Ernie Demuth of the planning team, by **May 17, 2021**.

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were previously available, the following information can be obtained electronically on the Natural Resources Information Portal <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> to assist you in your review:

- Draft FMP, including supplementary documentation;
- Draft FMP summary;
- Final Draft Report on Protection of Identified First Nation and Métis Values (only if the First Nation and Métis communities agree).

The Information Forum related to the review of Draft Forest Management Plan will be held via individual or group remote meetings which may be arranged by calling the individuals listed below during the review period. Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be also requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed below:

Ernie Demuth, R.P.F.
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry
tel: 613-202-2208
e-mail: ernie.demuth@ontario.ca

Svetlana Zeran, R.P.F.
Plan Author
Bancroft Minden Forest Company
tel: 613-332-6890
e-mail: svetlana@bmfc.ca

Jane Dumas
Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens'
Committee (LCC)
e-mail: mayor@southalgonquin.ca

During the planning process, there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNRF District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the 2020 *Forest Management Planning Manual* (Part A, Section 2.4.1).

The last possible date to seek issue resolution with the MNRF Regional Director is **June 1, 2021**.

Stay Involved

Further information on how to get involved in forest management planning and to better understand the stages of public consultation please visit the following link:

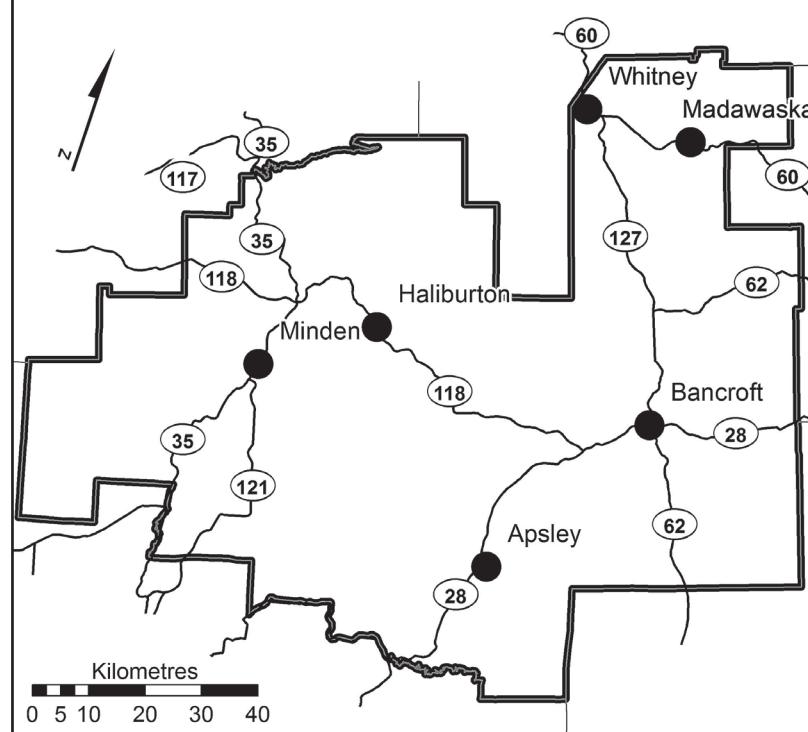
<https://www.ontario.ca/document/participate-forest-management-ontario/how-get-involved-forest-management>

The MNRF-approved FMP will be available for inspection for the 10-year duration of the FMP **Stage Five - Inspection of the MNRF-approved FMP**.

The approval date of the FMP is tentatively scheduled for **August 2021**.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*. Any personal information you provide (home and/or email address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shari MacDonald, Regional Information Management Specialist by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca.

Bancroft-Minden Forest



Board of health advocates for paid sick day benefits

by SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Acknowledging the difficulty in staying at home and self-isolating for people who do not have paid sick leave benefits, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit's board of health unanimously supported a recommendation from Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health, to advocate for such benefits as part of a public health response to prevent further transmission of COVID-19.

Dr. Gemmill broached the recommendation at a board of health meeting on Feb. 18, noting that the necessity of paid sick days as an effective public health response to prevent the transmission of communicable disease is especially apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that low-income households are less likely to have access to paid sick days, and are less likely to be able to abide by public health recommendations such as not going to work if ill.

"Remaining at home during this pandemic has clearly demonstrated its effectiveness at reducing the spread of COVID-19," noted Gemmill's recommendation. "It was estimated that globally, a one per cent increase in the number of people staying at home resulted in 70 fewer cases and 7 fewer deaths weekly."

Statistics Canada reports that 58 per cent of Canadians do not have paid sick leave, and low-wage workers are less likely

to have sick leave benefits.

The recommendation reads: "[t]hat the Board of Health write to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premier of Ontario to request that the federal and provincial governments collaborate to implement and to fund the necessary policies and programs to ensure that paid sick day benefits for low-wage workers who face loss of income and financial hardship while ill, being tested, self-isolating and following necessary COVID-19 control measures." "We really want to control this virus by keeping people who we know are ill, and who we know may be in the position of transmitting this in the work setting or the service setting, from doing so," Gemmill told board members. "The issue that has been recognized across the country, and across the province as well, is that there are a number of people in the service sector who are either working part-time, perhaps do not have the same kind of job security that people in other work situations have, and therefore, unfortunately, there is a disincentive for such people to follow the guidelines of staying home when you're sick, because of the fact either that wages might be lost, or that a job might be lost by not showing up."

While there have been federal responses put in place, Gemmill said, he noted they can be "cumbersome" for the employee, with a delay in when they might receive funds they urgently need.

"These temporary measures are more difficult to claim

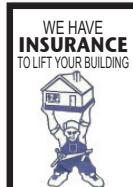
than mandated, immediately accessible paid sick days," said Gemmill's report. "Furthermore, application to these benefits is subject to delays, stringent eligibility and the amount paid after tax is less than a full-time minimum wage job in most provinces. The result is that workers may report to work, regardless of being ill."

Besides Bill 239, *Stay Home If You Are Sick Act, 2020*, giving employees the right to seven days of paid and three days of unpaid emergency leave every year and a provincial support program to help business owners cover those costs, which was tabled by NDP MPP Peggy Sattler last December and was carried on the first reading, other cases for paid sick leave provisions have been made by the World Health Organization in a 2010 report, by the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada in a 2020 report, and by endorsement by Toronto City Council and the Toronto Board of Health, and a call for action by the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area Mayors and Chairs. Canada does not currently have a federal legislation that offers paid sick leave to all Canadians, said Gemmill's report, and of ten provinces, only two have legislated minimal paid sick leave. The Progressive Conservative government, which repealed access to two paid sick days in 2018, has opposed growing pressure from politicians and medical experts to legislate paid sick days, noting that the federal sickness benefits should be enough, though temporary.

"There is interest at the federal level to work with provin-

see page 15

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Letter sent to provincial reps

from page 14

es to negotiate a new paid sick day system," said Gemmill. "In the wake of this pandemic and the urgency to mitigate further transmission of COVID-19 in the community, now is an opportune time for the Government of Ontario to take lead, in collaboration with the federal government, to implement and fund necessary policies and programs to provide sufficient paid sick day benefits that are accessible and timely when outbreaks occur. It should remove barriers for low-wage workers to get tested, self-isolate and follow crucial coronavirus control measures."

Board members questioned if the letter should mention their recent support of universal basic income, but Gemmill said that is a separate issue.

"Out there, in some people's minds, there is a connection between the two," he said. "I know there is a movement as well to look toward basic annual income ... I personally think that our board should be addressing the public health side of this, which is why we

presented it as a measure to try to control - be one more thing in place to help control - the spread of coronavirus."

"I think that's a separate issue that needs to be dealt with in a separate way at a separate time," he said. "This is, I think, a more urgent measure to have in place so that we can use it as well to address the issue of transmission of coronavirus."

Gemmill said that the health unit would be asking the federal and provincial governments to collaborate, to make a paid sick leave benefit work well, and said they could add wording to support that job security after sick leave was guaranteed, and stating support of the private members bill before the legislature.

A copy of the letter will also be sent to Christine Elliott, Ontario's Minister of Health, Dr. David Williams, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and Monte McNaughton, Ontario's Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development, Ontario boards of health, as well as area MPs and MPPs.

New fire chief starts with AH

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed during a Feb. 18 meeting of Algonquin Highlands council.

Michael French is the new chief of the Algonquin Highlands Fire Services, and participated in his first council meeting.

French was previously chief of Rama Fire Services, with Mayor Carol Moffatt saying he brought tremendous experience to the role.

"It is very impressive, for a volunteer department, the equipment you have, the programs that are in place," French said of the township's fire services.

French replaced outgoing chief Jonathan



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

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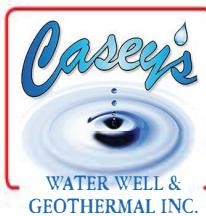
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Wilker, who started with the township last February, weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic struck Ontario. Wilker resigned to move back to Ottawa, where his family has continued to live throughout the pandemic.

Security cameras to be installed at office

The township will install two security cameras at its administrative office along North Shore Road, at a cost of approximately \$3,000. The County of Haliburton and its lower-tier municipalities all passed surveillance policies in 2020. There have been a couple of incidents at the North Shore Road office involving staff safety, including one where the building was evacuated due to threats.

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Alpine season relaunches

A skier holds his ski for a trick on Feb. 20 after launching off a jump during the first weekend Sir Sam's Ski and Ride was reopened since the provincial lockdown imposed in December. A number of COVID-19 safety protocols are now in place. See sirsams.com hours and days of operation, including new practices. /DARREN LUM Staff

Community Events

Send your events listing to
Pat Lewis at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Child Care in Minden



Compass Early Learning and Care (CELC) is a progressive, non-profit organization where we work collaboratively to provide excellence in early learning and care.

We provide endless opportunities for your child to discover the joy of learning through play.

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6	5	1	2	8	9	7	4	3
7	8	3	5	4	6	2	1	9
5	4	9	6	2	8	1	3	7
1	2	6	3	5	7	4	9	8
3	7	8	9	1	4	6	2	5
2	6	5	8	9	1	3	7	4
8	1	4	7	3	5	9	6	2
9	3	7	4	6	2	8	5	1

Minden Times

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Call 705-286-1288 classifieds@haliburtonpress.com Deadline 4 pm Each Monday**200 FOR SALE**

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380 COMING EVENTS**380 COMING EVENTS****380 COMING EVENTS**

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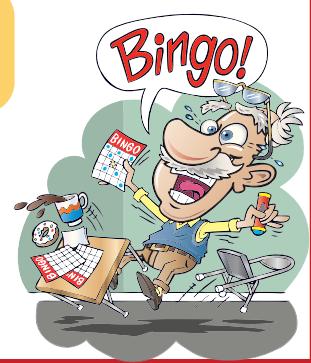
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Reputable Building Contractor looking for a person with carpenter experience. Must have a valid drivers license. Please call 705.754.4603

Permanent Nanny Position: Live-in or Live-out. Full-time nanny for toddler in Minden. Some housework required. \$15-17/hour. Call 647-457-3648 or email nannyagar2021@gmail.com. Skills: English-speaking, Child-care experience, CPR training, Police check, Non-smoker

READ IT ONLINE
www.mindentimes.ca

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Are you people loving/ tech savvy and efficient? **Minden Animal Hospital** is hiring a full-time permanent Client Care Coordinator. We are a fast-paced practice with excellent client service & exceptional patient care. We utilize the most up to date technologies for communicating with our clients through phone/ texting/ emailing and video conferencing. We are always learning and striving to do better. Clients can book appointments online and video-chat with our doctors. Our new facility is environmentally friendly and state of the art. We are passionate about supporting our community. Join our team for a satisfying career. Please send resumes attention Ms. Bailey Walker to info@mindenah.com. Find out more about our practice on this page designed just for you-<https://mindenanimalhospital.com/careers/>

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Minden Times Classifieds

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 Deadline 4 pm Monday

400 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
 Requires four (4)
 Seasonal Flagperson/Labourers**

The successful applicant will have experience in traffic control and be able to perform heavy manual labour duties in an outside environment.

The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$17.65.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 7, 2021.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.



**The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
 Requires an
 Engineering Student
 For the period of April 19th to August 27th**

The successful applicant must be currently attending a civil engineering program, proficient with Microsoft Office Suite, familiar with Total Station Surveys, ArcGIS, AutoCAD and have a valid G drivers licence. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required.

The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is \$22.03.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to abull@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than March 7, 2021.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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Must have some experience in carpentry, reading blueprints and knowledge of building codes an asset

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Experience in landscaping, gardening, carpentry and stonework an asset but not necessary...
 Must have own transportation...

Send resume to... info@blackrocklandscapes.ca
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Cleaning Services

**Onondaga Camp, Minden,
 seeks 5 Staff SEASONAL (2021)
 Starting at \$14.25/hr**



We are looking for Cleaners to care for our facilities by providing a high standard of cleaning and light maintenance duties. The goal is to keep all facilities in a clean and orderly condition. Responsibilities are to clean and stock designated facility areas (disinfecting, dusting, sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, restroom cleaning etc.), carry out heavy cleansing tasks and special projects, notify management of occurring deficiencies or needs for repairs, stock and maintain supply rooms, cooperate with the rest of the staff, follow all health and safety regulations, knowledge of cleaning chemicals and supplies, familiarity with Material Safety Data Sheets.

To protect the health and safety of our clients and employees, we have modified our normal operating policies in response to COVID-19.

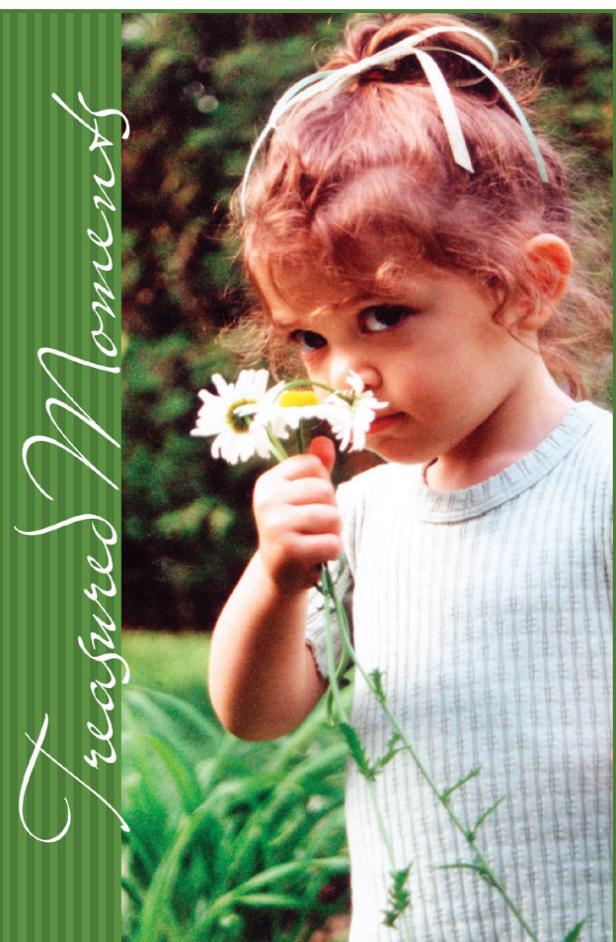
**Up to 40 hour work week Spring and Fall.
 Up to 48 hour work week Summer (6 days).
 Daily and Evening shifts available. (June-Sept)
 NO ACCOMODATION PROVIDED**

If you wish to apply, please send a resume to Matt Brown/Site Manager at matt@onondagacamp.com. Please feel free to contact at (705-286-5025)

A truly Canadian summer tradition, Onondaga Camp offers an extraordinary environment for kids to play, explore, achieve and grow. Situated on the shores of Middle Bob Lake near Minden, Ontario, Onondaga inspires the best in outdoor fun, learning and adventure for girls and boys from six to 16 years old. Onondaga Camp values the diversity of people. We welcome and encourage applications from people with disabilities. Arrangements will be provided, on request, to support candidates taking part in all aspects of the selection process. All responses will be handled with strict confidence.

Minden Times Classifieds

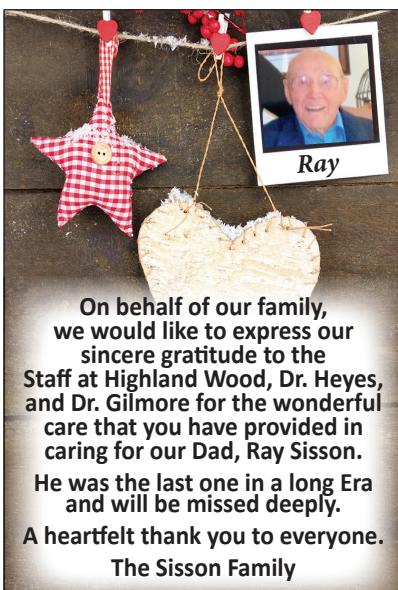
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In Loving Memory of Diane Christine Kernohan

Passed away peacefully at Highland Wood LTC, Haliburton on February 13, 2021 with her loving husband by her side.

Beloved wife of Joe McGee for 45 years. Dear step-mother of Lori (Stephen), Dan, Michael, and Lisa (Bill). Grandma Diane of Jason (Alysha), Carey, Kristy, Brandan, Taylor D, Whitney, Taylor P, Jordan, Kelly, Bridget and great grandma of Darrius, Jaydon, Kylie, Addison, Aiden, Ashton, Alexa and Ruby. Survived by her sister Barbara (Brian) Valentine of England. Lovingly remembered by many of her friends in Kinmount and she also actively volunteered within her community.

A Private Family Graveside Service and Interment was held at St. Patrick's Catholic Cemetery, Kinmount on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 1:00 pm.

Memorial Donations to the Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation, Lindsay or to Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation for Highland Wood LTC (HHHSF-Highland Wood LTC) would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.



www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

PRITCHARD, Joan Hazel (nee Bluett)

Passed away peacefully with family by her side on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at Chartwell Long Term Care in Elmira in her 90th year.

Predeceased by her husband Edward (2015). Cherished mother to Sharon Thompson, Evelyn "Lyn" Bullington (Larry) and Tammy Payne (Ken). Loving grandmother to Jessica, Sandra (Cory), Jeremy, Cory (Kellie), Katie, Rebecca (Chris), Sara (Brian), Shelby and Kacey. She also leaves behind 8 great grandchildren and will also be missed by many nieces, nephews and friends. Joan is predeceased by her 4 siblings and her son Steven.

Cremation has taken place. A private family service will take place at a later date. Donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Chartwell Elmira LTC care of the Chateau Gardens Auxiliary at 11 Herbert St., Elmira ON, N3B 2B8. Arrangements entrusted to the McBeath-Dynes Funeral Home, Ingersoll ON, N5C 2T7. Condolences may be posted at www.mcbeathdynes.ca



The Minden Times

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LOOK INSIDE



Rapscallions

Little Holly Parish was delighted with the Celtic Rathscallions' performance.

See page 5



Puppy love

Kristin Withey has a lot to brag about: 10 rare and snuggly Burmese Mountain Dog puppies.

See page 11



Oooh, dog germs!

Sled dog kisses were just part of the fun when Archie Stouffer students took their studies to the great outdoors.

In Quotes

"... Why do you expect me to pay for your local road repairs and maintenance, your schools, your garbage pick-up, your mail delivery, your water and sewers when I do not benefit from them? ... You have no appreciation of what cottagers go through each and every year."

Sharon Virtue, a Newmarket resident and Peach Lake cottager.

Norland 'gas man' an instant celebrity

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times Staff

It was closing time on Christmas Eve and when Dan Green saw the BMW SUV pull into the gas pumps at the Norland General Store, his heart sank. Not only did these gas guzzlers take a long time to fill but the people behind the wheel could sometimes be a bit of a snob. What a great way to be spending Christmas Eve.

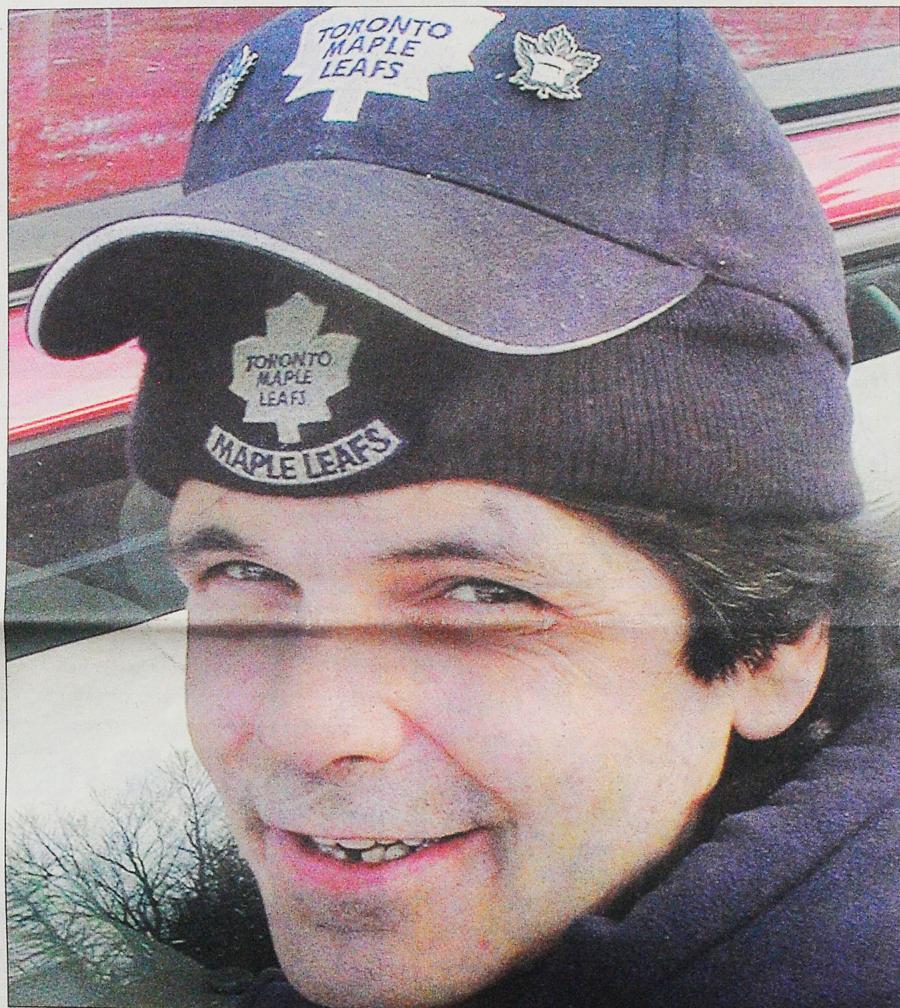
But when the BMW's driver rolled down the window, it was as if Green was once again a little kid waking up to wonders of what Santa had left under the tree. There, about to order gas, sat Mike Myers. Mike Myers of SCTV, *Wayne's World* and Austin Powers of *The Spy Who Shagged Me* fame. And perhaps, more importantly, Mike Myers the unabashed Toronto Maple Leafs fan.

Nervous, excited and a little bit overwhelmed to be talking to one of his comedic heroes, Green might have stumbled over what to say if he hadn't noticed the black NHL hat lying on the front seat of the SUV. So he did what most red-blooded Canadian men would do in a similar situation – he started talking hockey.

The Leafs were riding the crest of a winning streak, making their fans dream of long-lost Stanley Cup glory. Green told Myers that, every time he went over to a friend's house to watch the game, the Leafs won. Myers told him to do him a favour and keep going over to his friend's house.

Then Green decided to give Myers a little gift. On Green's cap was a Stanley Cup pin. Green

see MIKE page 3



The man Mike Myers didn't forget: Norland gas station attendant and Leafs fan Dan Green hit the big time when Myers talked about him on the Conan O'Brien show.

Big plans for Bark Lake

150 new homes in the works for Irondale

by MARTHA PERKINS
Times Staff

A bold new development plan could see 150 residential units being built along the shores of Bark Lake.

The proposal for up to 50 single detached cottages and 100 townhomes received a cautiously

enthusiastic response from Highlands East council on Tuesday.

"I think we will all benefit," Reeve Keith Tallman said after listening to the presentation by one of the facility's owners and the planner hired to work out the details of what Tallman called "an ambitious project."

see COUNCILLORS page 3

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he focused on building relationships. That remains our objective to this day. Our clients typically know us by name, call us directly or personally visit our office to discuss their needs. We thank them for the trust they place in us. For those who don't know us, we welcome your inquiry.

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